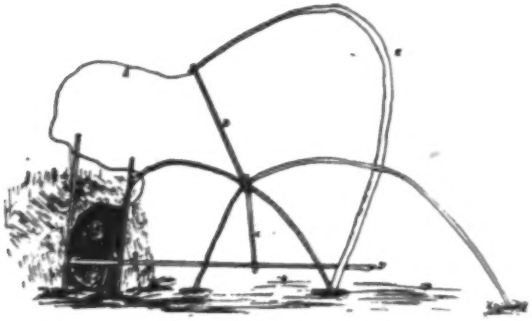
224 toward the small clearing. Badgered and frightened, the rats,
857 mice, etc., run madly. Not daring to break through the line of beaters, they are pushed toward the clearing, hesitate an instant before entering it, then bound in. Without moving from their places, the little hunters wait for them and catch them in passing.



A sharp, quick blow and their ribs are smashed in, their skulls broken. Not one escapes; neither their size (some rodents are as big as hares) nor bites nor scratches frighten these tots of three, four, or five years of age.

224 The children also occupy themselves by capturing birds and
●223 small rodents with nets and snares. The latter are made with a
857 flexible stalk for a spring and a cord with a noose. A system of small sticks which automatically trigger the release compels the bird to stick its head into the noose to reach the bait. At this moment, the mechanism is released, and the victim is pulled up by the cord attached to the stalk spring.

224 The natives also set snares of the same sort in front of holes of rodents and other animals or at a place where they habitually pass.

At the village of Madjuku, I had occasion to see the mechanism of a rat snare in action. In front of a hole, two arched sticks [62] intersect. A strong rattan stalk (E) has been stuck into the ground, and two piassava cords (A and B) are tied to its tip. One of the cords ends in a noose, which is placed in front of the entrance to the hole. A small stick (C) is attached to the end of the second cord. One of the ends of this stick passes behind the intersection